

## BOOKS

### "THE INFINITE MEADOWS OF HEAVEN."

**Half-Hours with the Summer Stars.** By Mary Procter. Published by A. C. McClurg & Company, Chicago, 1911. Price, \$.75, net.

The well-known daughter of a famous American astronomer, Richard A. Procter, has published her papers written for the Chicago Tribune in the summer of 1910. The little book is most informal, almost too sketchy, not in the least technical, and evidently written with those in mind who are unacquainted with the sky, by one who knows and, in her own word, "loves" the stars. Glimpses of the geography of the sky with simple maps for aid in finding the constellations described, are followed by some simple facts of astronomical science, with a look at one of its giant handmaidens, the Yerkes telescope; and all interspersed are stories from the mythology of the heavens—those familiar old sky-myths that, as Lafcadio Hearn says, make one "forget the monstrous facts of science and the stupendous horror of space."

ANGELINE LOESCH GRAVES.



### FOR AND AGAINST SOCIALISM.

**Elements of Socialism: A Text-Book.** By John Spargo and George Louis Arner. The Macmillan Co. Price, \$1.50 net.

**The Essentials of Socialism.** By Ira B. Cross, Ph. D. The Macmillan Co. \$1.00 net.

If those who are not for are against, then the first of these books is for, and the second is against Socialism. For the first is written from the Socialist standpoint, and the second is written from an impartial standpoint which grants all that is grantable to Socialism, but which also points out the weak spots in the collectivists' constructive program.

The work of Mr. Spargo and Dr. Arner is a new departure in Socialist literature, as it is written in the form of a college text-book with summaries and lists of questions at the end of each chapter. If it ever turns out that this book is actually used for its ostensible purpose—as a college text-book—it will be an interesting commentary on the growth of academic freedom. But just for that purpose a better book could not be imagined, for Mr. Spargo is perhaps the fairest and most able exponent of Socialism we have, and his co-author is an instructor in economics. Proofs of Mr. Spargo's non-dogmatic attitude are seen in the way in which he admits the fallacy of the old Socialist battle cry of "the iron law of

wages," and in the way in which he dismisses the materialistic implications of Socialism. The book covers not only Socialist theory but Socialist history, and the criticism of contemporary life upon which Socialism is based.

Dr. Cross's book is perhaps most valuable for its extended bibliographies which cover every phase of Socialism the world over. The author classifies the various schools of Socialism, outlines the proposed methods of obtaining collective ownership, and briefly sketches the proposed Socialist commonwealth. Unfortunately his chapters are in many cases far too short for the necessary qualifications which alone can insure accuracy in such discussions. Thus, in a page and a half he contrasts Socialism and the Single Tax, and throughout he tells us that "the Single Taxers" think thus and so. But, unfortunately for such a treatment, some of them think differently, and would thus consider their cause misrepresented here.

LLEWELLYN JONES.

## BOOKS RECEIVED

—**The Story of Old Fort Dearborn.** By J. Seymour Currey. Published by A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago. 1912.

—**My Life in Prison.** By Donald Lowrie. Published by Mitchell Kennerley, New York and London. 1912. Price, \$1.25 net.

—**Lame and Lovely: Essays on Religion for Modern Minds.** By Frank Crane. Published by Forbes & Co., Chicago. 1912. Price, \$1.00.

—**The Four Evangelists in Classic Art.** Edited by Rachel A. La Fontaine. Second edition. Published by Thomas Whittaker, New York. 1910. Price, \$2.00.

—**A Practical Solution of the Trust Problem and High Cost of Living.** By Charles H. Davies. Published by the Aggressive Press, Chicago. Price, 25 cents.

—**The Child in the City: Papers presented at the Conferences held during the Chicago Child Welfare Exhibit in May, 1911.** Edited by Sophonisba P. Breckinridge. Published by the Chicago School of Civics and Philanthropy. 1912.

—**The Delinquent Child and the Home.** By Sophonisba P. Breckinridge and Edith Abbott. Published for the Russell Sage Foundation by the Charities Publication Committee, 105 East 22d street, New York. 1912. Price, postpaid, \$2.

## PAMPHLETS

### A Pioneer Singletax Publication.

Edwin Burgess's "Letters on Taxation" is an extraordinary pamphlet. It contains (besides labor verses by the author of the letters) eleven letters which read almost as if they had been written by a Singletaxer of today. In fact, they were written

for and published in "The Racine Advocate," of Racine, Wisconsin, in 1859-60. No history of the Singletax can now be complete without them; yet neither the letters nor their author have figured in all in that movement. He is not even in the line of succession from the physiocrats to Henry George as an economic writer. These letters are simply a "find," coming to light years after the writer's death, which occurred in 1869. Mr. Burgess was not a political economist, but an unpretentious working man. His letters read as if his mind had seen a great flash of truth, and his pen had briefly mentioned it; and that then both he and his thought had passed away unnoticed. It is wholly improbable that Henry George was influenced by these letters, printed ten years before he had thought of the problem, and in a local weekly paper published two thousand miles away. If that were probable, or even possible, the internal evidence is overwhelming that these brief letters could at most have done no more than set going the train of thought that worked out "Progress and Poverty." The pamphlet, published now by Hyland Raymond and Wm. S. Buffham, 403 Main St., Racine, Wisconsin, is additional testimony to the curious fact, observed in many other connections, that no truth is created by any person, but that all truths somehow force their way into the world by revelations through receptive minds, their expression depending, however, not upon the revelation but upon the workmanship.

## PERIODICALS

### The Single Tax Review.

Edward R. Taylor, formerly Mayor of San Francisco, contributes a delightful article on "Henry George, the Man," to the Single Tax Review (New York) for July-August; and Dr. W. Schrameier writes the second and concluding part of his review of "Land Reform in Germany"—a brief and very able survey of the movement today, with an explanation for outsiders of why Singletaxers in Germany esteem the increment tax and mortgage law reform as prerequisites to land value taxation in their country. This number of the Review contains also a history of the Women's National Single Tax League, with personal stories and portraits of its official board; and there is from Alfred D. Cridge an excellent account of the opening of the tax fight in Oregon.

A. L. G.



Visitor—"You think your paper is far superior to that of your rival?"

Country Editor—"We are away ahead of them. Our boiler-plate last week was 'Peary Ought to Dis-

cover the Pole This Year,' and the best they could do was 'Dewey's Home-Coming to Be a Big Success.'"—Puck.



It is August the third

And, though soft be the skies,

Let it not be inferred

That T. R. is likewise.

He proposes to play it on William

In a way that "Will" will despise.

Which is why we remark,

And our language is plain,

That in hunting the snark

One is sure to cause pain,

And the bull moose is often peculiar,

Which the same we are free to maintain.

—Chicago Record-Herald.



Mr. Lorimer feels that it is bad enough to be expelled from the Senate, but to be expelled and leave

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